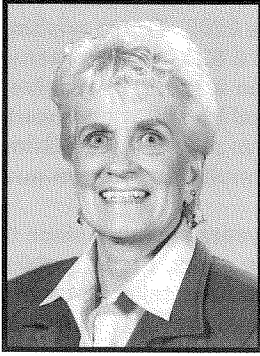


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



State Senator

Bev Hammerstrom

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December 15, 2006

CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING AND CARING TIPS The holiday season is upon us once again and an activity of many Michigan residents, done in the celebration spirit, is bringing a Christmas tree into their homes. Whether you cut your own or pick up one from a tree lot, there are a few things to watch for. Always look for a well-shaped tree with few bare spots. A fresh, healthy tree should be fragrant and hold its needles. Once inside, be sure to water the tree frequently. A freshly cut tree will absorb up to one gallon of water during the first day and about one quart daily thereafter. To ensure the utmost safety, trees should always be kept away from heat and draft sources, including fireplaces, television sets, radiators, and building exits. Remember to always turn decorative lights off when leaving the house and be sure your home has working smoke detectors.

DID YOU KNOW? This year's State of Michigan Christmas Tree is 61 feet tall with a 28 inch trunk diameter and has a total of 3,696 lights.

CAUTION URGED WHEN USING TURKEY FRYERS FOR HOLIDAY MEALS Michigan residents should always use extreme caution when preparing their holiday meals with a turkey fryer due to the dangers frequently associated with the devices. Turkey fryers, which require the turkey to be placed in three gallons or more of oil, heated by propane, have become increasingly popular in recent years. Tests have shown that the fryers have a high risk of tipping over, overheating, or spilling hot oil, leading to fires, burns, or other injuries. Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors and never on wooden decks or in garages. Fryers should never be left unattended, should not be overfilled, and must be placed on an even surface to prevent accidental tipping. Those using a turkey fryer should always keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby and remember to never use water to extinguish a grease fire. If a fire does occur, seek safety and dial 9-1-1 immediately.

MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL DESIGN IDEAS SOUGHT Michigan architects, engineers, artists, and students are invited to submit designs for a memorial to celebrate and honor the lives of law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. The deadline for monument design entries is noon on December 14. The winner will be announced February 8, 2007, with construction of the selected design expected to begin in late 2007. Those wishing to submit their design ideas must be Michigan residents, complete a registration form, and submit a \$25 fee. The memorial design must include the names of all the deceased officers with space for future names to be added. To receive the design competition booklet, which contains the registration and entry form, as well as additional information about the memorial, please visit the monument website at www.mleom.org. Questions may also be addressed to Vivian Grinnell, DMB, Stevens T. Mason Building, 530 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933, or by e-mail at grinnellv@michigan.gov.

FINAL EDITION OF HAMMERSTROM'S HOTLINE I began my career in the Michigan Legislature 14 years ago and, since then, I have always made it a priority to communicate with my constituents regularly. Throughout the years, I have published "Hammerstrom's Hotline" as a way to inform the residents of my district of news and events that take place in and around the State Capitol. I hope all of you have enjoyed receiving information about various topics related to the State of Michigan. Whether you found me in the district and asked me about a specific topic you read about in the "Hotline," or took the time to call or write a letter, I have appreciated all of your feedback, as well as your helpful suggestions for future editions of the newsletter. Due to term limits, I was unable to run for re-election in November and will leave office at the end of December. As I prepare to leave the Legislature, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your tremendous support and friendship throughout the years. My goal in seeking legislative office was always to make a difference and, as you reflect upon my tenure, I hope you feel that I have done so.